

Public Comments November 26 to December 10, 2013

I have written to you supporting the Parks Conservancy Plan as the best of the 3 submissions. I now want to suggest that even better would be to wait until the Presidio Parkway is completed and see how the site is affected by the ability of the public to move up and down the area. So, now my support goes to waiting several years before deciding on a project for the site.

At no time, however, should the site be used for a museum for Lucas's memorabilia. If the Fisher proposal of art was turned down as irrelevant to the Presidio, Lucas's proposal certainly has no relevance to the history, present, or future of the Presidio.

Thank you

Evelyn Jurow

I was born in South San Francisco but no longer live in California. When I come to visit I would be interested in visiting the Lucas Cultural Arts proposed facility. I believe it would generate much interest from many people. So that is my vote!

Kimary A Marchese

I am a cultural planner specializing in museums, having begun my career as a young Curator of Architecture & Design at New York's Museum of Modern Art before becoming Chief Curator of the de Young Museum. You may know my name from associations with institutions for which I wrote master plans: Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Ft. Mason, Headlands Center for the Arts, & the Norton Simon Museum. The SF Redevelopment Agency also asked me to advise on the multiple museum master plan for the Yerba Buena Center: SFMoMA, FAMSF, Asian Art Museum, CHS, etc.

I am writing today to suggest an idea that might help you with the George Lucas proposal. Clearly the idea of a private museum with a very limited focus is not ideal for the Presidio. I know his collection. He asked me to be his curatorial advisor many years ago, but I declined. It was not my field.

What would be a wonderful use for the space in question is a broadly based MUSEUM OF ART & NATURE. The theme would be human history as a whole, from the Neolithic to the Modern, with the storyline showing how the development of civilization has been a great benefit for humankind in many ways. However, it also has taken people away from a feeling of connectedness with the natural world, a feeling that pervaded social psychology for 90% of human history. We need to restore that feeling in a contemporary way. What would be an engaging way to tell this story?

THE MUSEUM OF ART & NATURE would have galleries of the Tribal World, the Ancient World, & the Modern World, with real art from all the eras, including rich displays from the Lucas collection of

modern magazine covers, match boxes, etc., (along with mini-cinemas for each era?). Lucas would be asked to fund the whole thing. Lucas has done a lot of great storytelling with what he learned about the essence of world mythology. I suspect it would challenge his vivid imagination to tell an enveloping story about art & nature. It would be the first museum of its kind anywhere.

I'm not looking for work. My plate is full planning Teaching Museums at local universities. But if you think it would be useful, I would be happy to help you sell the idea to Lucas.

Yours,

Lanier Graham

Executive Director

WWW.INSTITUTEFORAESTHETICDEVELOPMENT.ORG

P.S.

If Lucas puts his Cultural Arts Museum inside the now empty Palace of Fine Arts (already a Beaux-Arts masterpiece), he could still build the PRESIDIO MUSEUM OF ART & NATURE on Crissy Field. Moreover, like the Exploratorium, both could be replicated in many other cities and nations.

The Lucas option for the Commissary building is too self-serving, to state the obvious, as you deemed the Fischer family project: this is absolutely no different. The Presidio is not the play-thing of the rich, famous – though, the rich and powerful who would consider this another NIMBY prospect might also pose this option as another contradiction or perversion.

However, you might be compelled to reward one of your finest, former tenants: as you are clearly valuing the Haas family, who gave you millions to work with, establishing the next 100 years.

Anything which tampers with the serenity and harmony of the Crissy Field wetlands is fundamentally flawed.

The idea of moving the Sports Basement assets just down the path into the bungalows will also cause congestion, compounding the likely congestion caused by the Lucas complex.

The idea of leaving the building vacant without a plan would certainly feel strange to you, as if you were not doing your job. As suggested strongly by the Haas Family to do Judy that, as bizarre as it sounds: it makes a lot of sense.

But you are not compelled to run with one of the other two plans: why? Because they are not funded with outside money? Cannot the Presidio Trust put the ideal plan in motion and find it too?

There is no doubt that the space must serve the people but:

who are the people it will serve?

If you maintain significant parking you have a unique opportunity to synergize with Ft. Mason offering an continuity of venues which are not as plentiful as one thinks in that part of the city, leading to using the space for what many come up with over time, a naturally random selection that does include the widest cross section of people: which represents the spectrum who visit the Presidio.

Currently, there is no destination venue in the Presidio which could, if scheduled properly, would also complement the Cowell Theater on the Ft. Mason pier. Now, behind the Herbst Pavilion, it only serves a narrow cross section in demographic and population size.

Please. envision an exciting space to open people to all possibilities.

While Lucas's personal vision is compelling and each and every one of us has been inspired: it is all retrograde and need not be representative of the future, including all assets of the now Disney collective of formerly independent visionaries.

If George wants to bring a compelling idea forward leveraging on his non-profit Edutopia, harnessing his multi-billion-dollar estate, in a neutral form, that could be the most valuable contribution he could, also, make for the next 100 years.

I do not agree that any education component associated with LucasArts, as it is rooted in pure fantasy – despite the adaptation of natural systems in serving the aesthetic needs of each fictional portrayal – could match the objectivity found in the Presidio's natural and architected surroundings.

My best,
Jim Nemerovski

Recently, I experienced a unique Presidio perspective by standing on the very edge of the Observation Post's western lawn. That position afforded me the view of what, in a few years, will be the Presidio's nature boulevard to the bay. Looking up toward the Parade Ground, one can imagine the green, graceful glide toward Crissy Field. When the connection of the Parade Ground and Crissy Field is finished, a beautiful landscape concept will be complete.

What is not so complete is the future of the Sports Basement area. I understand three very different options are being considered for that part of the Presidio. But great care must be taken. Whatever is done must integrate naturally with the nature boulevard that is currently being formed above and across Doyle Drive. Colossal buildings can be built in numerous locations around San Francisco, but options for natural areas are very limited.

Please go stand on the Observation Post's lawn and think about what could be. Do we need another large building? What will integrate well with what is already in progress? And what best serves the citizens of the nation?

Perhaps nothing more than taking down the present building and returning the land to a natural setting is all that is needed.

Sincerely yours,
Joe Daly

I wish to support the Haas family position that puts the brakes on any development of mid-Crissy field until the connection with the Presidio is complete and understood. OKing a project now is premature.

I particularly OPPOSE the Lucas project...it is an ego-driven travesty that can be accommodated elsewhere (what is wrong with the old Exploratorium site for his collection of film memorabilia?).

Michelle Welch

The Presidio Exchange is more in keeping with our community, environment and landscape. Please count my vote for the Presidio Exchange

Thank you,
Sharon Beals

I am wholeheartedly in favor of the Presidio Exchange being chosen as the most appropriate site for the old Sports Basement site in the Presidio. The PX will focus on the ecology of the site itself and provide needed information regarding this majestic site to all visitors. Crissy Field is part of the GGNRA and it deserves to be maintained; the PX is the best fit. Lucas' museum could be placed in many other locations in SF.

Sincerely,
Paula Champagne

I am writing to express my support for the Presidio Exchange (PX) proposal for reuse of prime national parkland in the Presidio of San Francisco.

This proposal is the only one that advances the mission critical goals of the Presidio and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and is the only one that preserves and enhances the park values at Crissy Field.

The former Commissary site at Crissy Field--in the heart of a national park--deserves a cultural institution that is energized by and responds to the interests and passions of all our communities. With its open design and its constantly changing programs, the PX is best suited to reflect the needs of all visitors--local and from afar.

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the sponsor of the PX, has played a key role in preserving the Presidio and transforming Crissy Field, and is best suited to continue the revitalization of this iconic region.

The legacy of Crissy Field and the Presidio Trust is at stake here with your upcoming decision. Thankfully, the PX proposal is before you, and is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to complete the reuse of nationally significant waterfront property. I urge you to select the PX.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
National Parks Conservation Association
on behalf of 2 individuals.
